



Dear Friends,

The Community Cancer Service "Into the Light" Cancer Awareness Walk has been successful because of friends like you! Volunteers have started planning the 23rd annual event that benefits cancer patients of Isabella County who need help paying for their cancer-related expenses.

Community Cancer Services (CCS) is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt organization. For over 35 years, we have been serving Isabella County residents dealing with cancer. Since no salaries are paid, approximately 90 cents of every dollar goes directly to help a patient in our county. Services include financial assistance for transportation cost for trips to receive treatments.

Our annual walk is scheduled for Friday, September 30 from 4:00 - 10:00 p.m. at the Isabella County Fairgrounds. The walk includes a survivor celebration, luminary ceremony, entertainment, food, raffles and more! 100 percent of the proceeds from "Into the Light" benefit cancer patients that are in need of our services.

Please know how much your support means to those that are affected by cancer. We hope that you will consider sponsoring the walk with a monetary contribution. If you have any questions or would like information for forming a team, please contact one of the individuals below.

Gratefully,

Suzanne Courser (989) 621-4096 or (989) 644-2504 tscourser@msn.com
Susan Courington (989) 621-3883 spcour@charter.net
Deonna Kreamsreiter (989) 330-1978 Call or Text

Please complete form below and send to: Community Cancer Services, P.O. Box 36, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0036. If you have any questions, please contact one of the people listed above. Community Cancer Services 501(c)3 number: 38-2415496 www.communitycancer.org

Into the Light 2022 Donation Form

Opportunities (please check one)

- Hope Sponsor \$1,000+ Includes business name on the back of the event t-shirt and name listed in the program.
Empowerment Sponsor \$500 Includes business name on the back of the event t-shirt and name listed in the program.
Friends of CCS Sponsor \$250 Includes business name listed in the program.

Yes, I would like to support Community Cancer Services Into the Light Cancer Awareness Walk

- Payment enclosed (make check payable to Community Cancer Services)
Please invoice me

Individual or Company Name
Contact Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Email

As part of the event, luminaries will be made in the memory of those who have passed from cancer, those currently fighting cancer or those who have survived cancer. Anyone making a donation may have names written on luminary bags.

Names for the luminaries:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT | ALL GIFTS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Form must be received by September 1, 2022 for business name to be included on event t-shirt.

COMMUNITY CANCER SERVICES OF ISABELLA COUNTY "Your Local Cancer Organization"

PO Box 36 Mt. Pleasant MI 48804-0036

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Ithaca, MI Permit No. 35

www.isabellacommunitycancer.org



"Your Local Cancer Organization"

23rd Annual "Into the Light" Cancer Awareness Walk

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 4pm - 10pm Isabella County Fairgrounds 500 N. Mission Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Please Join Us!!



- Entertainment Raffles Food
Survivor Celebration - 7:00 pm Luminary Ceremony - Dusk
HONORING CANCER SURVIVORS Honor Encourage Remember
We Walk in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones
Walk as a Survivor Walk for a Survivor Walk because you CAN

For information contact:

CONTACT: Suzanne Courser (989) 621-4096 / tscourser@msn.com Sue Courington (989) 621-3883 Deonna Kreamsreiter (989) 330- 1978 / Call or Text



Serving Isabella County in Patient Support, Education and Research

www.isabellacommunitycancer.org

Summer 2022

"My Cancer Journey"

Elizabeth Herron

My name is Elizabeth Herron, a Graduate of Shepherd High School, and I am currently 17 years old. When I was 11, I was diagnosed with Ganglioneuroblastoma. It is one of the rarest forms of childhood cancer, with less than a 5% survival rate. It also has the highest childhood cancer recurrence rate and is the hardest to detect. In September 2015, I began to have severe stomach pain, diarrhea, and vomiting. In 21 days, I went from weighing 78 lb. down to 52 lb. My mom took me to the ER four times; they said that I was dehydrated and had a virus and would send us home after giving me fluids and running lab work. On October 22, 2015, my mom took me to the ER, and she told the ER doctors that there was something seriously wrong with me and we were not leaving the ER until tests we completed. and because of this persistence, a CT scan was completed, and they found a mass on my right adrenal gland. After being admitted to the hospital for diarrhea and vomiting, my pediatrician Dr. Fox decided to do another CT scan. They found that the mass had grown more than double in size in just four days. Dr. Fox decided I needed to go to the U of M to see a Pediatric Surgeon. However, they could not control my diarrhea and vomiting to transport me by ambulance. Due to the growing cancer rate, my mom elected to drive me to U of M at Ann Arbor. On November 16, 2015, I had right adrenalectomy that was supposed to be done laparoscopically, but the mass had grown so big that I could not have it removed laparoscopically. It was a little bigger than a golf ball; they made a much larger incision to take it out; I stayed in the hospital for five days. I had monthly appointments with the Pediatric Oncologist, an Endocrinologist, and a Genetics doctor. I would have an ultrasound and labs at these appointments to check for new tumors. In March 2016, they found another mass on the posterior wall of my vena cava (underside of my heart on the back) and a second one blocking my hepatic duct. The doctors at the U of M told my parents that they would keep watching the two tumors to see if they had cancerous characteristics. My mom's friend told her about a Neuroblastoma specialist at Helen DeVos in Grand Rapids, the only Pediatric Oncology Neuroblastoma specialist in Michigan. My medical records were faxed to Dr. Foley at DeVos at 9 a.m.; by 11:30 a.m., they called and said to get me there as soon as possible. Dr. Foley ordered more labs and ultrasound and confirmed the two new tumors. Dr. Foley ordered an MIBG scan with radiation. The MIBG radiation makes tumors glow like a Christmas tree and destroys the tumor with the radiation. They injected the radiation liquid into my arm through an IV. And then, I was transferred to the Pediatric Oncology fifth floor, where I would stay until the next day when they would scan me to see if any of my tumors glowed. I had a severe adverse reaction to the radiation and was in and out of consciousness. The next day they transported me to the MIBG room for the scan. The results showed that the tumor found in my hepatic duct could not be determined and that the tumor on my heart was the size of a pea. I had to get radiation, scans, labs, and ultrasounds at least once a month for over six months. Finally, on September 6, 2017, 1 year and five months after I was told that I had two more tumors, Dr. Foley said that the mass on the hepatic duct of my liver wasn't showing up anymore and that the tumor on my heart had shrunk to the size of a top of a sewing pin. That is when I was also given my very first 6-month clearance. Being a cancer survivor at a young age has made me grow up very fast compared to other kids my age. By having Ganglioneuroblastoma, I had to deal with things kids my age could never have imagined. I believe that having Ganglioneuroblastoma wasn't a negative time in my life but rather something I faced and fought head-on. Cancer has also taught me many things, such as recognizing my inner strength, how to stay focused and keeping a positive outlook, and never giving up

CCS Makes a Difference in Isabella County

Helping Isabella County cancer patients since 1982

An all volunteer organization

Almost every penny earned goes to meet client needs

Pays transportation and some out of town lodging and expenses

Supports the Nancy Carey Support Group Your tax deductible donations, gifts, and memorials stay in Isabella County for patient support, education and research

Provided \$71,772 financial support in 2021 to cancer patients in Isabella County

Has an agreement with I-Ride for free transportation to local treatment

We are your local cancer organization



Check out our website:

www.isabellacommunitycancer.org

or visit our Facebook page

facebook.com/isabellacountyccs

**LOCAL DEALERSHIP. LOCAL COMMITMENT**

**Krapohl Ford & Lincoln**

What do you get when Krapohl Ford & Lincoln reaches out to Community Cancer Services (CCS) and asks how they can help CCS with more than just a monetary donation? The expansion of a wonderful, longtime partnership.

In previous years, Krapohl Ford & Lincoln has co-sponsored our annual Veterans Concert performed by the Central Michigan Area Concert Band and made donations to our "Into the Light" fundraiser. In the early spring of 2022, General Manager Mark Smith reached out to CCS to see if there were other ways in which the dealership could help. CCS had begun planning on updating the poster that is displayed throughout Isabella County, in doctors' offices, hospitals, libraries, apartment complexes, etc. Mark introduced CCS to Krapohl's marketing firm, Paladin Communications. The dealership footed the bill for the Paladin team to update and print the poster displayed in this newsletter! We think they did an outstanding job!

However, Mark Smith wasn't done yet in his desire to assist CCS and cancer patients across Isabella County more tangibly. He said "I have drivers, I have cars. Do any of your clients need transportation assistance?" CCS Service Coordinator Vanda Barker had just been contacted by a client who needed a car and a driver for treatment in Bay City. This treatment was five days a week for six weeks! Mark didn't bat an eyelash! To date, Krapohl has provided a car and driver for six clients, including one from northeast Isabella County who had multiple trips to Mt. Pleasant, and four clients who were driven to Ann Arbor, some of whom had to spend the night.

Krapohl Ford & Lincoln truly demonstrates how it takes a village to help cancer patients with financial assistance for treatment-related transportation costs. They are genuinely dedicated to helping cancer patients in Isabella County during a very difficult time!

Many thanks to dealership co-owners Mark Smith and Tom Krapohl for leading the way on behalf of Isabella County residents.

**Current CCS Board Members**

**President**

Richard Fleming .....989-772-5556

**Vice President**

Betty Campbell .....989-773-9639

**Immediate Past President**

Suzanne Courser..... 989-644-2504

**Treasurer**

Tina Powell..... 989-772-1209

**Service Coordinator**

Vanda Barker.....989-772-2524

**Secretary**

Deonna Kremsreiter .... 989-330-1978

**Publicity/Newsletter Editor**

Laurie Peters.....989-560-4834

**Memorials Coordinator**

Zora Walsh .....989-506-3461

**Community Liaison Director**

Diane Fleming.....989-775-5556

**Public Education Coordinator**

Norm Eifler .....989-773-7789

**Historian**

Jane Clark .....989-773-3596

**Board Members**

Donna Parr  
Pam Goudreau  
Michael Hetzman  
Sivaram Narayan  
Margaret Steslicki

**Honorary Board Members**

Ruth Ann Sowle  
Bill Odykirk  
Harold Cook - Past President

**Mileage and Lodging Reimbursement Program**

Cancer can be overwhelming in many ways. Community Cancer Services (CCS) can help pay your mileage to and from cancer treatments as well as help with out of town lodging. Last year CCS provided almost \$72,000 in medical mileage and lodging. We are your local cancer organization and are here to help you during this stressful time. Our CCS Service Coordinator, Vanda Barker, can help guide you to services you need. Each case is considered individually to ensure that the most appropriate aid is given. Call Vanda at (989) 772-2524. All calls and clients are kept confidential.

*CCS is not affiliated with American Cancer Society*

**Elizabeth's Journey Continued . . .**

even on bad days. It taught me that I am strong mentally, emotionally, and physically. When I was first diagnosed with cancer, it was tough for me to grasp everything, and I would wonder why this was happening to me and if I was going to die. Somewhere inside me, I knew I was meant for bigger things in life, and I would fight as hard as possible to beat this. I believe that it has been that inner fighter in me that gave everything I could not be another statistic, and I am here today because I wasn't going to give up, and I won't until I reach my goals. I'm a cancer survivor is something that will always be a part of who I am and is something that I am proud of. I will be graduating in less than two weeks and then moving to Savannah, GA, to attend college at Savannah College of Art and Design to obtain my master's in Animation. Some day I want to be able to create animated movies like Disney and Pixar and bring happiness to others through my art. I know that going through childhood cancer has taught me so much, and I will never forget everything I have gained and learned from this experience.



*Editor: Please note that Elizabeth's story has been condensed due to space limitations. Please go to the CCS website for her complete narration. We wish Elizabeth the best of luck with her future goals.*



**Community Cancer Services,  
lighting the way for cancer patients  
in Isabella County.**

**CCS Board of Directors Meetings**

The CCS Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of the month at the Commission On Aging building, 2200 S. Lincoln in Mt. Pleasant. Prospective members are invited to call President Richard Fleming at 989-772-5556 for more information.

**Important Phone Numbers**

Pardee Fund of Isabella County.....(989) 772-6895  
Community Cancer Services.....(989) 772-2524  
Nancy Carey Support Group for Women.....(989) 513-7827

**Pardee Cancer Fund of Isabella County**

Isabella County residents are fortunate to have the Pardee Cancer Foundation available to help with the expenses of cancer. Pardee provides financial support for cancer treatment expenses not covered by insurance. Call 989-772-6895 for more information.



**Vanda Barker  
Service Coordinator  
989-772-2524**

**www.isabellacommunitycancer.org  
facebook.com/isabellacountyccs**

*Support for local*  
**cancer patients**

**Your cancer-related expenses should be the least of your worries. We can help.**

**If you're an Isabella County resident who has been diagnosed with cancer, Community Cancer Services can help you with:**

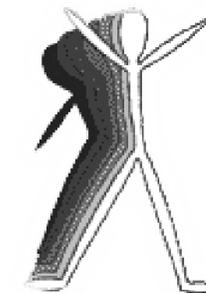
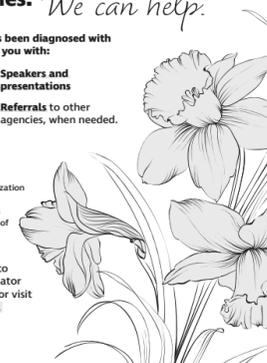
- \* Financial reimbursement for treatment-related transportation costs. Other needs considered on request.
- \* Speakers and presentations
- \* Transportation coordination and assistance for cancer treatments.
- \* Referrals to other agencies, when needed.
- \* Support groups

CCS is an independent, volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) organization that has provided more than \$1 million in assistance to cancer patients in Isabella County since 1982. Support is provided through grants and donations. Nearly 90 cents of every dollar goes to cancer patients in our county.



For assistance, to volunteer or to contribute, call Service Coordinator Vanda Barker at 989-772-2524 or visit [isabellacommunitycancer.org](http://isabellacommunitycancer.org).

Krapohl Ford & Lincoln is a proud partner of Community Cancer Services



**23rd Annual Into the Light**

**Cancer Awareness Walk**

Friday, September 30, 2022  
4:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Isabella County Fairgrounds  
500 N. Mission Rd., Mt. Pleasant



**Team Registration / Individual Walker Form/Luminary Form**

Community Cancer Services (CCS) is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt organization which has been serving Isabella County residents dealing with cancer for over 35 years! Since no salaries are paid, approximately 90 cents out of every dollar goes directly to help needy cancer patients in our county. CCS provides financial help to Isabella County cancer patients who are struggling to pay their cancer-related expenses. Services include financial assistance for transportation cost for trips to receive treatments and consideration of individual requests for other expenses.

Team members will receive an event t-shirt (limited sizes available). Ask family, friends and co-workers to pledge their support. ALL proceeds benefit Community Cancer Services for cancer patient support. Team name will be included on event t-shirt if team information is submitted prior to September 1, 2022. T-shirts are also available for a donation of \$25.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations from (List Name)	Donation Amount	Donations from (List Name)	Donation Amount
1.		6.	
2.		7.	
3.		8.	
4.		9.	
5.		10.	
			TOTAL \$

LUMINARIES	
List name to be put on the luminary bag	
1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

*(If necessary, attach additional sheets)*

Please make checks payable to: Community Cancer Services  
P.O. Box 36  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0036

**Thank you for your support! All gifts are tax-deductible.**  
*Community Cancer Services 501(c) number 38-2415496*

Suzanne Courser,  
(989) 621-4096 or (989) 644-2504  
tscourser@msn.com

CONTACT:  
Susan Courington,  
(989) 621-3883 / spcour@charter.net

Deonna Kremsreiter,  
(989) 330-1978 / Call or Text

[www.isabellacommunitycancer.org](http://www.isabellacommunitycancer.org)

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

**Help us help those with cancer in our community**

Yes, I would like to make a tax deductible donation to Community Cancer Services.

Please accept this contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ or in Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Community Cancer Services of Isabella County, PO Box 36, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0036

An acknowledgement will be sent to the person or family you choose. Your gift will help fight cancer in a concrete



\*Please make a luminary in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
for the "Into the Light" cancer awareness walk this fall.